

FBIS

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EDITORIAL LAUDS USSR DISARMAMENT EFFORTS, URGES PROGRESS

LD281049Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Mar 78 p 1 LD

[Editorial: "Disarmament Is a Command of the Times"]

[Text] The successes of the Leninist foreign policy of the CPSU and the Soviet state attained in recent years are bearing good fruit in the international arena. Thanks to the efforts of the USSR, the other socialist community countries and the world's progressive, peace-loving forces, the relaxation of tension is becoming reality and is acquiring deep and lasting roots. The principle of peaceful coexistence among states with different social systems is gradually becoming the norm in their relations.

The main task on which the Soviet Union and the fraternal countries of socialism are focusing their efforts now is the business of definitively eliminating the threat of a world nuclear catastrophe, reaching the point where the positive changes in international relations become stable, intensifying and expanding detente and making it irreversible, and halting the arms race.

"If detente continues and if other states are ready for disarmament, we will have no objection," Comrade L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, has noted. "Persistently, consistently and more actively every year we are seeking approaches to the solution of this problem, right up to the most radical--universal and complete--disarmament."

In recent years the Soviet Union has made over 70 proposals aimed at detente, safeguarding peace, disarmament and improving relations among states. In accordance with the decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress, our party and state have undertaken a number of new peacemaking [mirnyy] steps and advanced important constructive initiatives. The USSR has stated firmly and unambiguously that it is ready to agree on the simultaneous halting of nuclear arms production by all states and to begin reducing existing stockpiles right up to their total elimination and to ban tests of these weapons. The Soviet Union has expressed its readiness to declare a moratorium on nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes and to renounce the production of neutron weapons on a reciprocal basis.

The land of the soviets is doing everything necessary to advance the talks on problems of the limitation of the arms race. These talks cover a broad spectrum of issues--from the total halting of nuclear tests and the banning of chemical weapons to the reinforcement of military detente in Europe and the reduction of military activity in the Indian Ocean.

The Soviet Union attaches special significance to the successful completion of talks and the conclusion of a treaty with the United States on strategic offensive arms limitation and a treaty on the reduction of armed forces and armaments in central Europe. The main point now consists in turning from disarmament talks to real steps signifying the start of disarmament. Only such steps will really satisfy the aspirations of the people who want lasting peace and who condemn the arms race.

It is no secret to anyone that aggressive forces opposing detente and disarmament are operating actively in the West. They are trying to undermine the development of distrust and brinkmanship and are seeking to achieve military superiority over the socialist countries. Imperialist circles are stoking hotbeds of tension, provoking military conflicts and whipping up the arms race. [paragraph continues]

This is borne out in particular by the plans of the Pentagon and the NATO military for the production of a barbaric new means of mass annihilation--neutron warheads and shells [snaryad]--and their deployment in Western Europe. The implementation of these dangerous designs would seriously complicate the situation in Europe and throughout the world and would lead to a qualitative new leap in the arms race.

To justify its actions, imperialist reaction is trying to distort the meaning of the peace initiatives of the USSR and the other socialist countries and the essence of their strictly defensive measures. Western propaganda is tirelessly resorting to slander and falsification and trumpeting about the so-called "Soviet threat." The Peking leadership is singing in unison with NATO militarist circles.

The people of the world are clearly aware that the continuing arms race is the main peril threatening the world. To halt this pernicious process and prevent nuclear war, with its innumerable calamities--it is toward this that the efforts of the Soviet state, the other socialist countries and all peace-loving forces are directed. Disarmament is truly a command of the times.

It is for precisely this reason that the ranks of the fighters for peace and against war and for the ending of the arms race and disarmament are multiplying. The countries of the socialist community are marching in the vanguard of this noble struggle. They recently introduced an important initiative, proposing a draft convention on the prohibition of neutron weapons. This initiative is supported by all peace-loving countries and people. The wave of protest against the criminal new plans of the U.S. and NATO militarists is gaining strength with every passing day, and demands are growing for a reduction in military budgets and in the production of lethal types of arms.

The preparatory committee for convening a special UN General Assembly session on disarmament, to be held in May and June this year, completed its work less than a month ago. The documents submitted to the committee by the socialist countries formulate specific proposals in this field. The progressive international public is voicing the conviction that the approval of these documents by the world community could give powerful positive impetus to the disarmament talks now underway and could promote the implementation of specific steps on the path of nuclear disarmament and the ending of the arms race. The Soviet proposals on these topical problems were also at the center of attention of the Belgrade meeting of representatives of the states which took part in the all-European conference.

The 60 years since October have convincingly proved that our party and our people have been, are and always will be loyal to the cause of peace. For us, its defense is the defense of socialism, the defense of the bright future of mankind.

GOLDBERG STATEMENT ON CSCE, U.S. STAND CRITICIZED

LD221847Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1717 GMT 22 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Washington, 22 March, TASS--A. Goldberg, the head of the American delegation at the Belgrade meeting, has made a report on the results of this meeting to the so-called Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe of the House of Representatives of the U.S. Congress. This commission, as is known, has taken upon itself the illegitimate functions of a type of control over the activities of the states which participated in the Helsinki conference. Its very establishment was in essence an attempt by the American side to take upon itself the right to interpret the final act in a one-sided manner and on this basis judge the fulfilling of its propositions by the other state-participants.

Goldberg's speech from this organ's tribune, which can be characterized as attempting to interfere in other states' internal affairs, wholly corresponds to his position taken in Belgrade. At the basis of this position lies the desire to turn the Belgrade meeting into a psychological war, charging the atmosphere with hostility toward socialist countries and demonstratively evading serious discussions of specific problems of European security, and above all such important questions as the limitation of the arms race and military detente.

The head of the American delegation frankly declared, when speaking at the commission, that the United States considered the Belgrade meeting as a forum where the United States would be permitted to "call to account" the other states, but leaving itself out. "We," he emphasized, "are expecting the others to fulfill the solemn international obligations which we all signed." This position, we emphasize, is convenient for those who flout human rights in the United States itself.

Goldberg overtly advocated the further intensification of U.S. interference in the internal affairs of other, especially socialist, states on the artificial pretext of "protecting human rights." The U.S. Government, he said, must "continue to monitor" the implementation of the Helsinki agreements by other countries. "Public groups" must be set up in the United States to engage in such monitoring, and congress must make more frequent "demarches" regarding the situation in the sphere of human rights in other countries.

Goldberg's statement appears all the more strange since he was compelled in the light of hard facts to admit the legitimacy of the accusations made to the United States in Belgrade regarding infringements of civil rights. The unfavorable situation in this sphere was pointed out to us in the course of the Belgrade meeting, he said, and added: and indeed, "not everything is perfect" in our country; the right to work has not been guaranteed to Americans so far, and certain groups of the population are not entitled to vote.

It is also generally known that the American authorities have been engaged in mass persecution of civil rights champions, that they do not even shrink from convicting people in court on the basis of notoriously false accusations, and that people are sentenced to death for their beliefs.

One might expect the head of the American delegation to condemn this flagrant violation of human rights in his own country. This has not, however, happened. Having "forgotten" about millions of American Negroes, Indians, Puerto Ricans and Mexican Americans living in the United States as "second-rate citizens," he hypocritically showed "concern" for national minorities outside the United States who are allegedly "denied the right to preserve their identity." And what was the value of his quotation of a statement by Martin Luther King, the well-known civil rights champion of the Negro people struck down by a racist bullet, who said: "Wherever it may take place, injustice is an enemy of justice everywhere"? The American authorities still refuse to sanction a trial which would lead to the exposure and punishment of Martin Luther King's assassins. What can be a greater injustice than to take a person's life and then knowingly prevent the punishment of those who committed such a hideous crime?

AMBIGUITY IN CARTER POLICY THREATENS U.S.-USSR RELATIONS

LD272306V Moscow TASS in English 2244 GMT 27 Mar 78 LD

["Soviet-American Relations: Time of Crucial Decisions"--TASS headline; all quote marks as received]

[Text] Moscow, March 28, TASS--"The time of truly crucial decisions is nearing in Soviet-American relations. The line elaborated by the 24th and 25th CPSU Congresses remains the immutable foundation of Soviet foreign policy. It includes also improvement of Soviet-American relations...yet the direction in which the relations between the two countries will develop depends not on the Soviet Union alone," writes Academician Georgiy Arbatov. His article on Soviet-American relations has been published today in PRAVDA.

The development of relations between the two countries has notably slowed down because of the policy of the American side, Arbatov notes. "It is becoming ever more obvious, in particular, that the halts, lack of progress in the solution of outstanding problems of Soviet-American relations are not only fraught with a waste of valuable time, but also with the emergence of new difficulties, with a sliding backwards."

"Against the background of a halt in resolving important matters of Soviet-American relations caused by U.S. policy, the arms race, the creation of new, dangerous types and systems of weapons (such, for example, as the neutron weapon), the growth of military allocations in the U.S. and other NATO countries keep moving at a high pace. To justify this course a campaign about a Soviet "military threat" is being fanned up. It is more and more often joined by the U.S. administration as well. One of the latest examples is the recent speech by President Carter at Wake Forest.

The political atmosphere in the USA, says the article, is complicated and diverse, active in the country are forces building up tension. Along with this there are strong tendencies towards detente. All this cannot but influence the decision of questions, on which the future of Soviet-American relations, and international relations as a whole, very largely depend.

Academician Arbatov describes the agreement on strategic arms limitation as the "most important and urgent" question in Soviet-American relations. "This agreement," he writes, "may become a major step in limiting armaments. It is also important that it will open the road for a new stage in the talks, for more radical accords that will allow to advance further to ending the strategic arms race, and to a considerable reduction of such arms."

"At present the SALT reached a kind of a landmark. Of course, a number of essential problems still have to be agreed, just as many technical details. Yet it would seem that the possibility of their agreement, just as the fate of the agreement itself, depend today not so much on the skills of the negotiators, as on the substantial political decision of the U.S. Government--whether to conclude the agreement at this time at all. One cannot escape the impression that it is on this root question that Washington has once again entered a period of vacillation."

Explaining these hesitations, a number of American figures "link up" the fate of the agreement with the "political atmosphere," with the events in Africa.

"No one, of course, would question the importance of the overall political atmosphere," writes Arbatov in this connection. Yet another thing is equally clear: The course of a government is no passive object, but an important instrument of its formation. The conflict in the Horn of Africa was conducive to the buildup of international tension.

Its cause, after all, was Somalia's aggression against Ethiopia. Yet Somalia would hardly venture on such an aggression had it not reasons to count on U.S. support. And the U.S., too, most probably associated certain designs with that adventure."

"Is it logical, though, to try and revenge oneself for unsound calculations, by hindering the solution of matters in which America is no less interested than the Soviet Union?"

Even if we ascribe Washington's hesitation to the political atmosphere, Arbatov goes on, "still the main role in its deterioration is played by the continuing arms race and the freezing of military relaxation--the central question in USSR-USA relations, that is, problems directly connected with strategic arms. These problems, to be more precise--the direction assumed by the debates around them, now going on in the USA, indeed complicate the situation in no small measure."

The debate centers on the selfsame old argument about a "Soviet threat," for decades now used to whip up the arms race. Its insolvency is apparent. Both at the strategic level and in Europe a parity of forces has taken shape, which has more than once been recognized by official statements of the U.S. leadership. The matter is obviously quite different--it is the reluctance to reconcile oneself to such a parity, the stubborn desire of the U.S. imperialist circles to attain military superiority. Hence, the annoyance over the future agreement, the firing up of apprehensions, as if it would seal a balance of strategic forces unfavourable to the USA."

There is quite a number of people in the U.S. Congress, Arbatov notes, who well realize that the Soviet-American agreement now being worked out would signify a major stride along the road of strengthening peace. Yet, there are others as well. This is why it could be expected that, were the agreement signed, its ratification in Congress would proceed amidst an involved struggle.

"It is quite probable that one of the causes of the hesitations manifested by the U.S. administration is precisely the fact that it has not decided yet whether it is prepared at this time for such struggle. One may assume that the opponents of the agreement count on this too: They complicate the situation in the Congress, trying not only to hinder the ratification, but to enhance the vacillation of the government and thereby drag out indefinitely the talks themselves. But here the same question arises once again--why then does not the administration use the opportunities for influencing the atmosphere, which it doubtlessly has at its disposal?"

It is hard to suppose, the article goes on, that this is not done (or done too seldom) through oversight, through someone's negligence. "It means, rather an ambiguity in the administration's policy, beginning already from the fact that it is trying to combine Strategic Arms Limitation Talks with the creation of new dangerous types of weapons, with ever increasing demands for military allocations. One would think that it is precisely this ambiguity that compels the administration at times to keep silent, at others to agree to dangerous compromises with their critics, and still at others even to playing up to them.

"The impression is formed that this line is connected with attempts to take advantage of the situation in the U.S. and the stepped-up attacks against the future agreement for bring pressure to bear on the Soviet Union at the talks, for "bargaining" for unilateral concessions. Such an approach can hardly be regarded as far-sighted."

In the course of preparing any agreement, Arbatov writes, there is time to voice doubts, for diplomatic manoeuvring. Yet there comes a time when, at long last, it is necessary to decide whether the agreement is to be, or not to be.

"All the logic of the development of events leads to the conclusion that such a moment is at hand. And its responsibility is determined by the fact that what is to be decided is not merely the question of just another agreement. The question is actually about selecting the road for years to come. Either an agreement, proceeding from which one can advance further towards limiting and reducing arms and developing peaceful, reciprocally advantageous cooperation. Or a rejection of agreement, which could mean torpedoing the Soviet-American dialogue on vital questions of the security of the two powers, torpedoing international security, and a considerable deterioration of the overall atmosphere in USSR-USA relations."

In this connection the author recalls President Carter's address at Wake Forest which repeated assurances that America will work for the success of the SALT, rather than seek unilateral advantages. "Yet the main emphasis in that address is on strident promises to strengthen the military might of the USA, to deploy new weapons systems, with reference to a 'Soviet threat', to the USSR's 'sinister' intentions. How is one to understand such remarks? As a shift of political accents? As a return to the 'policy of strength'? As attempts to attain military superiority, which invariably failed throughout the post-war period? But how can one reconcile this with 'concern' for preventing war? Its threat is engendered today most of all precisely by the arms race."

In the development of military technology, Arbatov notes, some new tendencies have been revealed. "Yet one thing is apparent: The arms race will grow still more dangerous, for the new types and systems of weapons will shake even that relative stability that exists today. The next fifteen-twenty years may seriously differ from the preceding period in this regard."

"Of course, one can impose on the other side new rounds in the arms race. This has already happened more than once, and the Soviet Union proved that it can neither be intimidated, nor compelled to retreat in the face of such actions. Yet Washington, too, should give thought to all the consequences of such policies, to how it will affect both the interests of the USA, and those of all mankind."

"The nearest future must indicate whether Washington adheres in deed, to the orientations that have been repeatedly proclaimed of late by the American leadership--orientations towards strengthening peace, limiting and reducing arms, towards developing cooperation with the USSR," writes Academician Arbatov in conclusion.

SENATOR MCGOVERN CLAIMS CARTER SPEECH 'DELUDES' PUBLIC

LD271319" Moscow TASS in English 1150 GMT 27 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Washington, March 27. TASS--The public and soberminded politicians in the United States regard President Carter's recent speech in Wake Forest as a shift of accent in American foreign policy from the earlier proclaimed course of ensuring national security by way of talks, limiting the arms race and deepening detente to the course of threats and whipping up of tension. This is evidenced in particular by a statement by George McGovern, an influential senator, who said this policy presented a danger to the United States itself.

Speaking in an ABC radio and television interview the Senator said that such speeches by the President do not serve the interests of detente and only delude the country about the direction it should follow. One cannot speak about detente while waving rockets and shells at the same time, McGovern said. The growth of the American military budget was always, as a rule, a formula for the arms race. I see no evidence to support the claims that the Soviet Union now threatens the United States more than several years ago, he said.

The Senator stressed that Congress should take the administration to task for the inflated Pentagon budget. As is known, the administration intends to provide the Pentagon with a record sum of about 130 billion dollars next fiscal year.

The Senator said that the United States possessed an adequate defence and that he was disappointed by the President's failure to call for a reduction of military allocations. McGovern said the biggest danger to the United States now emanated not from the outside but from within: The continuous decline of American cities, the deteriorating national system of transport, the inability to create alternative sources of energy, thus making the United States ever more dependent on costly foreign oil. These problems present a real danger to the United States, and the present administration does not have an effective and competent approach to these problems, Senator McGovern stressed. The President's call to build up military spendings will evoke a negative attitude on the part of soberminded congressmen. The spirit of detente should be restored, McGovern said.

CONGRESSMAN ASPIN REFUTES CLAIMS USSR COULD VIOLATE SALT

LD271758Y Moscow TASS in English 1721 GMT 27 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Washington, March 27, TASS--Attempts of certain leaders in the United States to create the impression that the Soviet Union "violates" Soviet-American agreements on strategic arms limitation and thus to hamper the talks in this sphere under way now are suffering a fiasco. These allegations aimed at smearing the Soviet Union's reputation as a reliable partner in international treaties were exposed this time by Congressman Lea Aspin, a Pentagon specialist on strategic armaments in the past.

On the basis of thorough analysis, he arrived at the conclusion that any "deception" by the USSR, any "violation" by it of the existing or future agreements on strategic arms limitation are simply impossible for the reason that such violations would be noticed at once. In this connection, the Congressman criticizes the attempts of certain United States circles to place an emphasis on the problem of control over implementation of the agreements. This problem, he stressed, exists in imagination rather than in reality.

As is known, allegations about the Soviet Union's "violations" of Soviet-American agreements appeared in the AVIATION WEEK AND SPACE TECHNOLOGY magazine, a mouthpiece of the military-industrial complex. Then former U.S. Defence Secretary Melvin Laird, writing in READER'S DIGEST picked up such allegations, and other U.S. leaders and press bodies joined in. Answering the question of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to this effect, acting director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency S. Keeny officially said that there is no evidence that the USSR surpassed the established limits for armaments. Assistant Secretary of State Douglas Bennett issued a statement stressing that all information at the administration's disposal indicates that the USSR has not surpassed the limit of missile carrying submarines and that reports to the contrary are not in keeping with reality.

CARTER LEAVES FOR LATIN AMERICAN, AFRICAN TOUR

LD281040Y Moscow TASS in English 1044 GMT 28 Mar 78 LD

["Same Old Baggage"--TASS headline]

[Text] Washington, March 28, TASS--The TASS correspondent, Yuriy Levchenko reports: U.S. President Carter is leaving today on a tour of Latin American and African countries, during which he will visit Venezuela, Brazil, Nigeria and Liberia.

American commentators believe that the President's foreign tour has two main purposes: to "repair" the U.S. relations with Latin American countries, which have seriously deteriorated of late as a result of Washington's unilateral discriminatory steps, and also to attempt enlisting support of black African states for Washington's "new" Africa policy. It has been designed, as is common knowledge, to salvage the racist regimes in the south of Africa and to create the most favourable conditions for the exploration of the natural resources of that continent by the U.S. monopolies.

The talks in Venezuela and Brazil will be dominated by questions of commercial and economic relations between the United States and Latin America. The Latin American states have long been expressing dissatisfaction at the domination of their economy by North-American monopolies, regarding their predatory activity as a serious obstacle on the road of economic development.

A flare-up of indignation was sparked off in Latin America by Washington's recent discriminatory restrictions on the import of sugar, which struck a serious blow on a number of southern neighbours of the United States, which are specialising in the manufacture of this product.

Criticism is expanding in Latin America of the demagogical U.S. "human rights" campaign, which is accompanied by continuation of Washington's support of the most reactionary regimes of the continent: the Chilean junta, the dictators of Nicaragua, Haiti and Paraguay. It was precisely the "defenders" of human rights from the United States that staged the overthrow of the democratic government in Chile, imposing upon the Chilean people and still supporting the bloody regime of the fascist junta.

Latin America is closely following the debates in the U.S. Senate on the question of ratification of the new Panama Canal treaties. Amendments to these treaties, designed to give the United States a "right" to intervene in the domestic affairs of sovereign Panama on the plea of "defence of the canal", were regarded by many thoughtful leaders as a pointer indicating that Washington was going to continue its policy of intervention and dictation vis-a-vis Latin America.

Caracas, March 28. TASS--A statement was issued here by the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Venezuela in connection with the forthcoming visit of the U.S. President. The head of the North-American administration is arriving in Venezuela as a representative and defender of the U.S. monopolies, which plundered and are going to continue plundering the natural resources of the country, the statement says. The United States is in the throes of a deep economic crisis, whose entire burden is to be placed onto the shoulders of the peoples of other countries, including Venezuela. The Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Venezuela believes that President Andres Perez, in the talks should vigorously uphold the interests of Venezuela and the strategy of OPEC, the Organisation of Petroleum-Exporting countries.

The Caracas newspaper ULTIMAS NOTICIAS writes that the leaders of Venezuela in the talks with the U.S. President should demand a solution to the problem of oil prices, because the unceasing depreciation of the United States dollar reduces the incomes from oil exports to the United States.

U.S. CONTINUES EXPLOITATION, SUBVERSION IN LATIN AMERICA

LD273950Y Moscow in Bulgarian to Bulgaria 1630 GMT 27 Mar 78 LD

[Text] United States President James Carter intends to go on a foreign tour, during which he is to visit Venezuela, Brazil, Nigeria and Liberia. Our commentator Leonid Levchenko writes:

It was announced in Washington that the President's present tour is to become a symbolic demonstration of the United States' interest in Third World countries. This is not the first time that similar representative statements have been made.

Let us take Latin America for example. Washington has repeatedly promised its southern neighbors some kind of a new approach; many times it has been stated that there must be an understanding of the interests of every country as well as an understanding of the needs of the entire region. A glance into the past can help us better understand the present. The history of U.S. relations with Latin America contains quite a few examples of open and cynical interference by Washington in the affairs of the countries on the continent, including toppling legitimate governments and imposing anti-popular dictatorships in that region.

In Latin America, as in Africa, American imperialism applies various methods to turn the independent states against each other. Governments which do not suit Washington are subjected to financial and political pressure.

On the other hand the United States provides wide support for its privileged allies. These are primarily the dictatorial regimes in Chile, Paraguay, Guatemala, Nicaragua and some other countries. As the Washington POST admits, the United States has given support to the establishment of military dictatorships and has strengthening their finances; they have taught them to deal with the democratic movements and have given them the most modern weapons for repression.

Relying on the reactionary dictatorships, the American monopolies have deep roots in Latin America. American exports to the region amount to \$16 billion per annum. At the same time, Washington takes every opportunity to close its own market to industrial goods from Latin America, in spite of its old promises to promote relations with younger partners on the basis of equality and mutually advantageous cooperation. As a result, according to U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT, one can hardly find a country on the continent which is satisfied with its trade relations with its northern neighbor. One can understand, why for only last year Latin America sank deeper in debt; this foreign debt has already reached over \$80 billion.

One asks, how can Washington talk about understanding the interests of every country and the needs of the entire region? There is an obvious incompatibility between the United States' and Latin American interests. The prominent American expert on inter-American relations, Luigi Einaudi, has admitted that the two Americas are becoming irreversibly separated from each other.

BEGIN GOES OVER CARTER'S HEAD; APPEALS TO JEWISH LOBBY

LD281046 Moscow in English to North America 2330 GMT 27 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Concluding his visit to the United States last week, Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin made an impassioned plea before American Jewish leaders calling for the support of the Israeli peace plan in the Middle East. Here is commentary by our observer:

The so-called Israeli peace plan that Prime Minister Begin has been trying to promote these days appears to be so unsaleable that it has caused a lot of discomfort to the best-meaning Israeli promoters, and primarily of course the United States itself. Thus, as both sides in last week's talks described them as somewhat difficult, Menachem Begin felt it necessary to go over the head of the U.S. administration by calling upon American-Jewish leaders to get U.S. support for the Israeli proposals.

It is hard to imagine what would happen under similar circumstances should any other foreign head of state do anything of the kind. Quite possibly he would have been castigated in the American press and denounced by American politicians. Not so with Prime Minister Begin, or any other Israeli official for that matter. No, they don't have to fear anything of that sort--and that for a very simple reason. No one of any consequence in the United States would ever dare to do it because retribution will hit you so fast, as the American expression goes, you won't know where it came from.

I think Gen George Brown of the Joint Chiefs of Staff knows what I am talking about. When sometime ago the general expressed mild criticism concerning U.S.-Israeli relationships, he was instantly overwhelmed with a flood of denunciations and colorful epithets alleging his anti-Semitic feelings. In the end, I understand the general, whose only concern was U.S. military [word indistinct], had to apologize publicly, calling his statement ill-advised, in fact doing what you would call eating his hat in public. Not that Mr Brown is masochistic. In his case it was quite possibly a matter of personal survival as a high-ranking official in the United States Army. He was dealing with something that is known in the United States politics as Jewish lobby, a euphemistic expression in my opinion, which covers extensive pro-Israeli interests in the United States, heavily backed up by equally extensive financial support.

It is precisely this curious entity, the Jewish lobby, that Prime Minister Begin hoped to use again as he argued his seemingly untenable case before American Jewish leaders in New York last week. Not that his hopes were misplaced. As on many occasions in the past proved it beyond doubt that the Jewish lobby in the United States have up to now been above reproach in selling the American Government whatever bright ideas Israeli leaders happened to come up with. [sentence as received]

Israel continues to dip into the U.S. pocket for generous helpings of arms and the most sophisticated weapons that, curiously enough, are not supplied to America's closest allies. Most recently Israel obviously counted on U.S. tacit approval and condonement as it launched its unprecedented offensive in south Lebanon, thus further inflaming a highly volatile situation in that area. And should the situation get out of hand there, the United States by implication would naturally be expected to face the consequences. Such is the kind of arrangement, or what American politicians like to call special relationship, of the United States with Israel, whereby one partner is apparently given a free hand in whatever it does while the other being expected to underwire any of its ventures however hazardous. [sentence as received]

Prime Minister Begin's remarks before American Jewish leaders concerning the so-called Israeli peace plan, have once again revealed beyond any doubt that he still acts as if he were living in Biblical times, way back when Palestine was the promised land of God's chosen people. Now it is up to the Jewish lobby in the United States to try and sell the American public and government Mr Begin's vision of the modern world.

U.S. ARMS DELIVERIES TO ISRAEL 'INTERFERE' WITH PEACE

LD272015Y Moscow TASS in English 1852 GMT 27 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 27, TASS--TASS commentator Ivan Ablamov writes: If the U.S. and Western press, in general, is to be believed, "acute differences" were created between the United States and Israel as a result of Israeli Prime Minister Begin's recent visit to Washington. Nothing is further from truth than such allegations. Washington and Tel Aviv conduct a concerted policy in reality. This is proved by the United States support for Israel and deliveries to Israel of the latest armaments that are used against Arab countries.

Thus, Washington delivered to Tel Aviv the latest fighter bombers F-15, which have not yet been supplied to NATO armies, except for the U.S. Army. These planes were used by Israel in its barbarous raids on south Lebanon in which hundreds of peaceful citizens were killed and whole areas were devastated. U.S.-made pellet bombs and Israeli tanks Merkava with U.S. engines were used by the Israeli military for the first time during the latest aggression in Lebanon. It is difficult to imagine a more vivid proof of the United States complicity in Tel Aviv's aggressive action.

The Israeli aggressor is so much favoured by the United States that it is supplied with the military equipment, which, according to the Washington POST, has not yet been provided for U.S. allies in the North Atlantic Treaty, and even at times for the U.S. Army. The press reports that Tel Aviv was promised top-secret night vision instruments Fleur chat were not yet supplied even to the U.S. Army.

The list of U.S. military equipment supplied to Israel can be prolonged. In addition to F-15, it is supplied with another latest fighter bomber F-16. Altogether 90 such planes will be supplied to Israel. Besides that, Israel intends to get 175 planes of other types for its air force. The military aid given to Tel Aviv by Washington has a broad and varied nature. The U.S. military deliveries include helicopters equipped with anti-tank missiles, patrol ships, munitions and various other equipment. Israel received seven billion dollars worth of military equipment from the United States over the past six years. These deliveries rose five-fold on October, 1973.

It is no secret that U.S. weapons flowing to Israel whet annexationist appetites of the Israeli military and induce it to new ventures against neighbouring countries. The U.S. military deliveries to Israel interfere with the prospects of a peaceful settlement in the Middle East, though Washington proclaims its striving for such a settlement.

ARAB PUBLIC NOT DECEIVED BY U.S.-ISRAELI 'DISAGREEMENTS'

LD272325Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2130 GMT 27 Mar 78 LD

[Text] The public of the Arab countries skeptically views the uproar being raised in Washington and Tel Aviv about the allegedly substantial disagreements in their positions on the problem of a Near East settlement. Our Beirut correspondent, Leonid Rassadin comments:

Recently, I have been speaking with many Arab journalists working in the Lebanese capital. Their opinions sometimes differ, but the overwhelming majority agree that we are observing a premeditated propaganda operation in Washington, designed to exculpate the United States in the eyes of the Arabs regarding the treacherous Israeli aggression against Lebanon. If there had been really [word indistinct] American-Israeli disagreements, then why did they come to the surface precisely at this moment. Why did it not happen a week, a month, or a year ago? It is the opinion here that in the present situation, when the Israeli occupying forces continue to trample on the land of sovereign Lebanon, when [words indistinct] the UN Security Council (?demanded) the immediate withdrawal of their troops from southern Lebanon, Washington is trying by any means to strengthen its tottering position in the Arab east. [Word indistinct] in the first place, a striking role is being played by the U.S. administration, which is supplying the most modern arms to Israel, which in turn has again revealed itself to the whole world as an aggressor guilty of the murder of completely innocent old men, women and children.

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UNITED STATES

On the other hand, the local press is noting. Washington is (?seriously) worried about the impasse which the separate Egyptian-Israeli talks have reached. So after fooling the Arabs with a skirmish of words with Israel, the United States is hoping to save the separatist deal between Cairo and Tel Aviv which contravenes the legitimate interests of the Arabs.

The progressive Arab public realizes that nothing has changed since the recent American-Israeli talks. Washington remains the main protector of Israel. It is the United States which is pushing Israel into new aggressive actions against the Arab peoples, especially the people of Palestine. The disconcerting events in southern Lebanon are proof of this.

CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION VISITING SOVIET UNION

Arrives in Moscow

LD271320Y Moscow TASS in English 1252 GMT 27 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow March 27 TASS--A group of American congressmen--members of the House Armed Services Committee, arrived in Moscow today. The group is headed by the committee chairman Melvin Price. They were welcomed by Lev Tolkunov, deputy chairman of the Parliamentary Group of the USSR, the U.S. Ambassador to the USSR Malcolm Toon. The guests earlier visited Leningrad, where they familiarized themselves with the structure of the city soviet, activities of its deputies, the history of the city.

Talk With Shitikov

LD271824Y Moscow TASS in English 1807 GMT 27 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 27. TASS--Today a group of American congressmen--members of the House Armed Services Committee, led by its chairman Melvin Price, paid a visit to the USSR Supreme Soviet--the parliament of this country.

The U.S. congressmen were met by Aleksey Shitikov, the chairman of the Soviet of the Union--one of the two chambers of the Supreme Soviet, and deputies to the Supreme Soviet.

A talk was held during which bilateral Soviet-American relations were touched upon, as well as various aspects of the disarmament problem, including those connected with strategic arms limitation. The U.S. Ambassador in the USSR Malcolm Toon was present during the talks.

SOVIET UN MISSION PROTESTS ANTI-SOVIET DEMONSTRATIONS

LD280858Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0804 GMT 28 Mar 78 LD

[Text] New York, 28 March--The USSR permanent mission at the United Nations has resolutely protested the continuing hostile demonstrations by Zionist and other reactionary organizations at the Soviet mission in New York, hampering its normal functions.

The letter from Oleg Troyanovskiy, permanent USSR UN representative, to UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim contains the text of a protest note which was handed to the U.S. mission at the United Nations following the hostile provocations directed against the Soviet mission and its employees which prevent them from performing their functions. The letter points out in particular that recently a small group of hooligans from a number of Zionist and reactionary emigree organizations staged yet another anti-Soviet gathering at the Soviet mission and, taking advantage of the connivance of the official U.S. authorities and the New York police, tried to block the entrance to the Soviet mission, hampering its work.

Under these circumstances the USSR UN mission recalls again that the international commitments assumed by the United States, as the host of the United Nations, stipulate the guarantee of normal conditions for the work of foreign missions in New York. The Soviet mission believes that the anti-Soviet elements taking part in such gatherings at the USSR UN mission violate these commitments and are subject to strict punishment by U.S. federal law concerning the defense of foreign officials and official guests of the United States.

The USSR mission has made a resolute protest to the U.S. mission in connection with the intolerable provocations conducted against the Soviet mission and its personnel and has again insisted that the official U.S. authorities take all the necessary measures to end the actions which are hostile to the Soviet Union and to insure the appropriate conditions for the normal functioning of the Soviet mission at the United Nations and its personnel.

MILITARY AID TO AFRICAN REGIMES PROTECTS U.S. INTERESTS

LD271924Y Moscow TASS in English 1811 GMT 27 Mar 78 LD

["Death Merchants"--TASS headline]

[Text] London, March 27, TASS--The United States gives broad military aid to the racist regimes in the African Continent and other regimes they favour. The aim pursued by Washington is consolidation of the regimes that must play the role of gendarmes, protecting the interests of the West, writes the NEW AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT magazine which appears in London.

Though the United States Government announced the introduction of the "embargo" on deliveries of armaments to the racist Republic of South Africa back in 1963, Washington continues rendering wide military assistance to the Pretoria authorities, using for the purpose third countries and branches of U.S. companies abroad. A few days ago, the United States Government approved a deal that was concluded by several aircraft companies with the South African racists to sell them 80 planes. These planes, specifically, include 44 Cessna planes which, the magazine writes, can be used in punitive operations. 337 military Cessna planes built in France on U.S. licenses were sold earlier to the Rhodesian regime. The fact that foreign branches could sidestep the embargo on arms deliveries show that there exist loopholes which the U.S. Government has no wish to close, the magazine writes.

The Republic of South Africa manufactures fighter planes and aircraft engines on licenses of the U.S. Lockheed Corporation and Cessna Aircraft. The latest equipment is manufactured at enterprises of the U.S. Atlas Aircraft Corporation in the Republic of South Africa. More than one thousand foreign workers are employed at these enterprises.

New York, March 27, TASS--Washington gives wide military support to Zaire. The deliveries of armaments to Kinshasa, the CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR writes, will rise from the volume of 19 million dollars in 1976 to 32 million dollars in the 1978 financial year. In the current year it is planned to allocate additionally ten million dollars under the special programme of security insurance.

The United States supplied to Sudan six C-130 military transport planes and concluded an agreement on the sale of a squadron of F-5 planes to Sudan. These deliveries are subsidized by Saudi Arabia.

U.S. TO SUPPLY DESTROYERS TO IRANIAN NAVY

LD240834Y Moscow TASS in English 0809 GMT 24 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Washington, March 24, TASS--The United States is increasing its supplies of modern weapons to the Persian Gulf area. As the U.S. Department of the Navy said, an order had been placed with the Ingalls shipbuilding company for the supply of four destroyers for Iran's Navy. The order is estimated to be 800 million dollars worth.

CARTER'S NAVAL MODERNIZATION PROGRAM CALLED INSUFFICIENT

LD271456Y Moscow TASS in English 1448 GMT 27 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Washington, March 27 TASS--TASS correspondent Albert Bobikov writes: The United States continues to build up its navy. President Carter has presented to Congress a five-year programme of modernizing the navy evaluated at about 28 billion dollars. The programme provides for building 70 new big ships and modernizing 13 existing ones. The programme includes recommendations to start in the 1980 fiscal year the construction of one aircraft carrier, an atomic cruiser, seven destroyers, 26 frigates, six Trident missile nuclear submarines, five nuclear torpedo-firing submarines, submarine chasers, landing ships, reconnaissance ships, etc. In the period from the 1979 to the 1983 fiscal years, several aircraft carriers, destroyers and other ships comprising the shock force of the U.S. Navy will be modernized and re-equipped.

But even this plan is being attacked as "insufficient" by placemen of the military-industrial complex. Thus, the House Armed Services Committee has already informed the House Appropriations Committee of its intention to provide additional allocations for the construction in the forthcoming fiscal year of yet another giant nuclear-powered aircraft carrier of the Nimitz class and another nuclear-powered cruiser. Charles Bennett, a Democrat who is chairman of the Subcommittee for the Navy of the House Armed Services Committee, contended that allocations for the construction of combat ships should be increased by at least 20 percent.

GOVERNMENT CONCEALED SHIPMENT OF URANIUM TO ISRAEL

LD271529Y Moscow TASS in English 1517 GMT 27 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Washington, March 27, TASS--TASS correspondent Vitaliy Gan reports: The United States Government concealed from the Congress and the public the fact of "disappearance" of a large consignment of enriched uranium which was shipped to Israel, so that it could conduct the work to create its own nuclear weapons. This is shown by the formerly secret documents that were published by the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs.

The mysterious disappearance of enriched uranium from a plant of the Nuclear Materials and Equipment Corporation (NEUMEQ) in the town of Apollo, Pennsylvania, was discovered by the United States Atomic Energy Commission back in 1966. This uranium could be used for the production of an atomic bomb. The commission's leaders, however, decided to keep secret the fact of the disappearance of uranium and the NEUMEQ's illegal cooperation with Tel Aviv, which intensified research in the nuclear sphere.

The commission's former head Glenn T. Seaborg circulated among the commission's staff a memorandum in which he obliged them to support the version that no loss of uranium has been discovered. False assurances were also sent to members of the Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy. The Congress was thus being deceived until the recent time. Early this year L. Gossik, one of the leaders on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, that was created instead of the Atomic Energy Commission, swore that the commission had absolutely no information about the disappearance of uranium.

It is recalled here that the CIA undertook an investigation several years ago and, on the strength of this investigation, informed the administration that it believed Israel had an atomic bomb. The CIA reported that Israelis had received raw materials along "underground channels", specifically from Pennsylvania where a NEUMEQ plant is situated. It was also established that the corporation's president, Z. Shapiro had wide connections in Tel Aviv and helped it purchase nuclear hardware from the United States.

CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN U.S. DENOUNCES HYPOCRISY

LD271022Y Moscow TASS in English 0918 GMT 27 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Yellow Springs, March 27 TASS--TASS correspondent Vladimir Reshetilov reports: A three-day conference on human rights in the United States has ended here. The delegates, representing different progressive public, negro, student organizations and also national minorities, discussed the problem of violation of human rights in the United States. The topics of the discussion, held at special working commissions and at plenary meetings, were political prisoners in the United States, put behind prison bars for progressive convictions, genocide against the native population of the United States--American Indians, doomed to extinction in reservations, political persecution of fighters against discrimination and segregation.

Most of the speakers stressed in their speeches the need of stronger unity of all progressive forces of the United States in the struggle against the mounting offensive of U.S. reaction against civil rights and democratic liberties of the American people. As was stated at the closing session of the conference by May Isaak, chairman of the National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repressions, unity and solidarity are the most powerful weapon in the struggle for equality and social justice. She called for intensification of the struggle for the release of the Wilmington Ten and other political prisoners in the United States.

We denounce the hypocrisy of the U.S. circles, which raised the question of human rights in other countries, but refuse to consider gross and incessant violations of these rights in the United States itself, says resolution adopted by the participants in the conference.

USSR DELEGATES UNABLE TO ATTEND CANADA-USSR MEETING

LD272235Y Moscow TASS in English 2211 GMT 27 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Ottawa, March 27, TASS--The fourth national conference of the "Canada-USSR" Association was held in Toronto. Taking part in the conference besides the delegates of 34 branches of the association were representatives of the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship. The messages of greetings of friendship societies from Great Britain, Australia, from the Union of Soviet Societies of Friendship and Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries were read out at the conference. The conference received a message of greetings from the mayor of Toronto.

A report on the association's work was made by its Executive Secretary Michael Lukas. He said that a delegation of the "USSR-Canada" Society was unable to take part in the work of the conference since Canadian visas were not issued to the delegation despite the authorities' assurances. Michael Lukas pointed to the intensification of anti-Soviet propaganda in the country. In these conditions, the association's work assumes particular importance for consolidation and development of relations between the Canadian and Soviet peoples.

The delegates discussed the plan of the association's activities for two years ahead. A number of measures was envisaged for intensifying cultural exchange, for development of mutual understanding and friendship among the peoples. The exchange of films, books, of all kinds of exhibitions and delegations is envisaged. It was decided to observe in September of this year the formation in Canada of the society "Hands Off Soviet Russia". This society was formed by Canadian workers, peasants and intellectuals in the year 1918, a difficult year for the young Soviet Republic, for the struggle against intervention of imperialist powers that was aimed at stifling Soviet power.

Elections of the association's leading bodies, specifically of the Canadian Executive Council, were held. Michael Lukas was reelected the association's executive secretary.

'EQUIVOCAL' W. EUROPE STANDS ON NEUTRON BOMB CRITICIZED

LD280839Y Moscow in French to Europe 1800 GMT 27 Mar 78 LD

[Nikolay Gratsianov commentary: "An Equivocal Stand"]

[Text] The wide-ranging movement of international opinion against the plans to equip NATO with neutron weapons is causing Western European politicians to make statements more and more frequently about this issue. But, if the peoples are categorically calling for an end to plans to produce and deploy the neutron bomb, wherever it may be, the position of certain statesmen is equivocal.

This is particularly the case with the statement made recently by the Belgian Foreign Minister, Mr Henri Simonet, in the Chamber of Representatives of the Belgian Parliament. The U.S. Government, he said, does not have to consult its allies on whether it is opportune to produce a nuclear weapon. As for the deployment of the neutron bomb in the European theatre of operations, the Belgian foreign minister stated that this was subject to agreement by the countries on whose territory the weapon is likely to be used.

One could not possibly be more evasive. On the one hand, the minister seems not to be cautioning against producing the new bomb [as heard]. On the other, he washes his hands of it, by pretending to be powerless on the pretext that the United States does not have to consult anyone. And he claims there is nothing to be done if a West European country which belongs to NATO authorizes the deployment of the neutron bomb on its territory.

But this is pure fatalism. What it means in fact is a concession to the imperialist circles in the United States and West Europe who are trying to step up the deployment of the new, monstrous means of mass extermination.

All the more reason why they in the Pentagon consider that the less the plans for producing it come up against plain stands by the Western European partners, the more this fact must be viewed as tacit agreement with the U.S. plans for the neutron bomb.

To sum up, the stand taken by Mr Simonet and certain other Belgian officials virtually encourages the supporters of neutron death. Can this be the expression of responsibility for the fate of their country and of Europe? The theater of operations in Europe mentioned in the chamber by the foreign minister would inevitably extend to Belgium in the event of any conflict. It should not be forgotten that that country was the first victim of the two world wars in Western Europe, even though it did not wish to participate. Would it not be more sensible to come out firmly against the neutron bomb venture while there is still time?

'STALEMATE' ON NATO ARMS STANDARDIZATION NOTED

LD271406Y Moscow TASS in English 1352 GMT 27 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Brussels March 27 TASS--TASS correspondent Albert Balebanov reports:

Regular talks of experts of NATO countries about conditions of purchasing by the bloc of AWACS, the airborne warning and control system, have been stalemated.

The bulletin "NOUVELLE ATLANTIQUE" reports that experts failed to settle a number of problems concerning national dues for purchasing of "flying radars", determining the costs of the maintenance of the system and the question of the stationing of AWACS bases.

The Pentagon wishes to sell to its partners in the North Atlantic bloc 16-18 "Boeing" war planes equipped with special radar installations. The system will cost over two billion dollars. Moreover, its maintenance will cost to tax payers another two billion dollars.

Britain did not agree to these plans and decided to create its own, lest costly, system "Nimrod." France rejected the Pentagon's plan altogether. Other countries have no wish to bear so high expenditures and despite Washington's pressure continue making delays about adopting any decision concerning AWACS.

Negotiations on this question drag out for the third year. They were started by the United States under the pretext of standardising armaments and ensuring interchangeability of combat equipment within NATO. But Washington seeks to achieve its aims by imposing deliveries of U.S. military equipment on its allies which is resisted by West European partners.

There will be another attempt in May of this year to settle differences within NATO on the question of AWACS when a session of the Defence Planning Committee of the bloc at the level of NATO countries' defence ministers is held in Brussels.

U.S. PRESSURE ON FRG TO PROP DOLLAR DOOMED TO FAIL

DW280831Y Moscow in German to Germany 1740 GMT 25 Mar 78 DW

[Valentin Zakharov commentary]

[Text] The gigantic interventions, meaning the dollar purchases made by the West Europeans and the Japanese in the first 2 months of this year were abortive. The decline of the dollar kept accelerating. In early March the newspaper headlines in Western Europe reported the fall of the dollar.

In the second week of March, Bonn and Washington agreed on new defense measures for the dollar in which Bonn had been persuaded to take the lion's share. This dollar defense program had been apprehensively expected. Economic associations and organizations of FRG parties voiced optimism along with a certain skepticism that the German-U.S. measures would lead to a more stable dollar rate, and that consequently the unpleasant upgrading pressure on the German mark and the resulting threat to FRG exports would be mitigated.

These hopes in the FRG, however, proved to be particularly treacherous, which is why plain disappointment is spreading. The Rhenish Westphalian Institute for economic research stressed the other day that the attempt of the Federal Bank to stabilize the dollar through intervention is wrong. Costly experiences have long proved that this is bound to fail, the institute emphasizes. Besides, such measures only tend to open doors wide to additional inflationary tendencies.

The failure of the defense measures for the dollar, hence, is obvious, as is the shipwreck of the aforementioned hopes on the Rhine. And both did not happen unexpectedly. The core of the measures for propping the dollar is this: The German Federal Bank and the U.S. Federal Reserve Board double the credits the German Federal Bank grants the U.S. Federal Reserve Board which to now have been set at 2 billion U.S. dollars. The U.S. administration, consequently, primarily tries to prop the dollar with German marks which Bonn allocates, along with other secondary measures of a financial political nature.

The result is two-fold: First, the West German-U.S. measures toward propping the dollar do not entail any change worth mentioning in the U.S. currency policy pursued so far. Washington expressly renounced such measures as, for example, issuing U.S. debenture bonds in foreign tender which would spell the transfer of the dollar-rate risk to the Americans. Instead, the U.S. administration continues to be satisfied with such policy measures whose burden as before would be primarily borne by other Western states, in this case the FRG in particular.

Second, the dollar propping program agreed between Washington and Bonn consists exclusively of finance-political measures meaning the sick dollar was merely given another dose of the same old medicine which had not helped before. This is why it is hardly surprising that the dollar remains so sick despite all sacrifices made by the FRG. The sick dollar cannot be helped with measures of a finance-political nature alone, for the causes of the dollar malady are manifold. They are not only of a currency-policy nature, but also of an economic and political nature. And all this has consequences for the economic and social situation of other Western industrial states in addition to the Federal Republic of Germany.

U.S. currency policy is a policy of the cheap dollar. It makes U.S. exports less expensive and consequently facilitates the U.S. export offensive in Western Europe.

This thrusts some FRG industries and other West European countries into difficulty resulting in short-shift work and dismissals. Hence, the U.S. export offensive shares in the responsibility for the unemployment in the West European countries. By its character the U.S. economic policy is an inflationary policy which artificially accelerates the U.S. economy.

The consequence for the West European countries, including the FRG, is well known under the designation of imported inflation. U.S. policy, finally, is militarized foreign policy. In the American view this policy, too, serves a good end. Huge sums of money are squandered as arms expenditures, including military aid in all parts of the world. The result, among other things, is the huge gap in the U.S. balance of trade and payments, the United States constantly asking its main NATO allies to stop this gap.

FINNISH FOREIGN MINISTER LAUDS HELSINKI-MOSCOW TIES

LD282354Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1905 GMT 27 Mar 78 LD

["Stability Factor in Northern Europe"--TASS headline]

[Text] Helsinki, 27 March--The Soviet-Finnish treaty on friendship, cooperation and mutual aid of 1948 corresponds to the mutual interests of the two countries, P. Vayrynen, Finnish minister of foreign affairs, stressed in an interview for the newspaper RAUHAN PUOLESTI issued by the "Finnish Peace Champions" organization.

The friendly and trusting goodneighborly relations created on the basis of the treaty have exerted a decisive influence on the formation of Finnish post-war foreign policy. In the international sphere this has exerted a stabilizing influence in northern Europe and beyond.

The development of cooperation between the USSR and Finland on the basis of the 1948 treaty has led to the interests of the two countries coinciding in the course of peaceful construction and strengthening security and cooperation in Europe.

Both countries, P. Vayrynen pointed out, have more than once stressed that they intend to continue to actively promote the further development of the policy of international detente and trust between countries.

These intentions, the Finnish foreign minister noted, are exerting an influence on the improvement of the political climate throughout Europe. The same aims are being served by the process now taking place of consolidating the results of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, which is supported by both the Soviet Union and Finland.

Thanks to its own policy Finland was able to act as a sort of trailblazer in the process of detente; its position promoted the realization of the results of the general European conference.

Experience shows, P. Vayrynen stressed in conclusion, that the principles of mutual relations which were fixed by Finland and the Soviet Union in 1948 in the treaty on friendship, cooperation and mutual aid, are correct, healthy and stable.

REACTION SUPPORTING AMSTERDAM FORUM REVIEWED

LD242534Y Moscow TASS in English 2128 GMT 24 Mar 78 LD

["The Need to Frustrate Dangerous Plans"--TASS headline]

[Text] West Berlin, March 24. TASS--The International Forum Against the Neutron Bomb has been an impressive manifestation of peace-loving people against atomic war and the U.S. plans to start the production of a new weapon of mass destruction. This has been stated by Alfred Ollasch, chairman of the West Berlin permanent working committee of struggle for peace, national and international mutual understanding, who attended the Amsterdam forum.

Both the appeal, made by the participants in the forum, to the people and governments of all countries, and the mammoth demonstration in Amsterdam, he stressed, lend new strength to the struggle against the U.S. escalation of the nuclear arms drive, against the threat of a world nuclear war in which the existence of whole peoples would be staked.

Helsinki, March 24, TASS--The development by the United States of new types of weapons of mass destruction, including the neutron bomb, is the most serious threat to the process of international detente, said Paavo Kyahkyaia, member of the executive committee of the "peace champions of Finland" organization.

It is exceedingly important that broad strata of the public of all countries resolutely come out against American plans of neutron weapon production, against the arms race.

At the Amsterdam forum, he said, the public of the world has said emphatic "no" to neutron bomb. The movement of the peace champions in Finland is engaged in extensive activities aimed at prohibition of this nuclear weapon. Such activities are an important contribution to realization of the decisions of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, P. Kyahkyaia said.

Berlin, March 24, TASS--The appeal of the recent Amsterdam International Forum Against the Neutron Bomb to the peoples and the governments of all countries has been received with approval in the GDR, writes the newspaper BERLINER ZEITUNG. Questions of an end to the arms race and of disarmament have become a key issue of continuation of the relaxation of tension.

True to their consistent policy of peace the socialist countries made essential proposals to promote progress in this matter. Meanwhile, the influential circles of monopoly capital are seeking to prevent the relaxation of tension from becoming irreversible.

The relaxation of political tension not only can but must be spread to the military sphere. The dominant circles of imperialism should be made to realize that their plans connected with the arms race are built on sand and will fail. These plans will be frustrated by further consolidation of socialism and the resolute struggle of peace-loving forces on the globe, headed by the socialist countries.

REPORTED U.S. -ISRAELI DIFFERENCES TERMED ILLUSORY

LD271728Y Moscow TASS in English 1705 GMT 27 Mar 78 LD

["illusions and Reality"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, March 27, TASS--Reports from Jerusalem say that the Israeli Government has reviewed the results of Prime Minister Begin's visit to Washington and totally approved his stand at the talks with the U.S. President. The Israeli prime minister devoted his stay in Washington to reiterating Tel Aviv's expansionist course and its categorical refusal to comply with the U.N. resolutions, without which a genuinely durable and just peace in the Middle East cannot be achieved.

It follows from reports in the American press that during the meetings at the White House Begin rejected even the possibility of considering the question of setting up an independent Palestinian state. Giving a biased interpretation of the U.N. Security Council's resolution of November 22, 1967, he claimed that the said resolution does not make it binding on Israel to withdraw its troops from the West Bank of the River Jordan and the Gaza sector. To the Palestinians living in the Western Bank Begin agreed to grant no more than a doubtful "right of choice" between becoming Israeli citizens or Jordanian subjects. Begin stressed that the Israeli Government intended to stick to this position at the separate talks with Egypt. He believes such an approach would be quite acceptable to As-Sadat.

The Israeli Government will also insist on continued Israeli military presence in the Sinai Peninsula, the preservation of the Israeli militarized settlements set up, on Israel's right to create new settlements and ensure their "security" by using Israeli forces. Tel Aviv continues to exercise this "right" in practice in defiance of protests among the world's public. According to the London DAILY TELEGRAPH five new Israeli militarized settlements are currently being built in Sinai. They will augment the already existing wide network of Tel Aviv's strongholds there.

Begin advertized as a "major concession" to Egypt Israel's proposal on demilitarizing the Sinai Peninsula and made it clear that he was not going to make any additional concessions to As-Sadat.

Meanwhile President As-Sadat of Egypt does not conceal his intention to pursue his path of the betrayal of the interests of the Arab nation and capitulation to the aggressor's demands. Addressing a delegation of American university workers yesterday he said that he "would not go back" on his initiative.

He called on the U.S. to be a "full participant" in the separate talks and "not just be an intermediary". Such an approach apparently suits Tel Aviv.

The Israeli Government at its meeting yesterday approved "new initiatives" to renew the separate talks agreed between Begin and Carter. The Israeli "peace plan", said a government spokesman, is viewed in Tel Aviv as a "good basis for continuing the talks." Officials in Jerusalem said that the question of a visit to Egypt by the Defence Minister Weizman is being considered. An influential Israeli newspaper, DAVAR, reports that he would go there within the next few days.

The Paris L'AUREOLE notes that there is still an Israeli military delegation in Cairo although talks within the framework of the Israeli-Egyptian Military Committee were suspended way back in January. This shows that secret contacts between Egypt and Israel have continued all along to discuss, among other things, the Israeli settlements and military airfields in Sinai. Representatives of the Israeli high command enjoyed the hospitality of the Egyptian Government also at the time when Tel Aviv unleashed its aggression of unprecedented scope in southern Lebanon and occupied much of the territory of that sovereign Arab state.

Clearly one speaks here of "peace American-style" which is in utter contradiction to the interests of the Arab nations and merely furthers the goals of imperialism, Zionism and Arab reactionaries. The developments in the Middle East highlight the illusory nature of the hopes entertained by those circles in the Arab world who still believe that the USA could force Israel to make concessions and pin hopes on differences between Washington and Tel Aviv. All these differences are tactical in character, and those who believe that the USA could make Israel give up its demonstrative aggressive course vis-a-vis Arab countries are committing an error of political miscalculation. There is no doubt that in such a case new concessions would have to be made not by Israel but by the Egyptian president, As-Sadat, who entered into separate negotiations with it. Meanwhile it is clear that concessions to the aggressor in order to appease him are not the way to ensuring the national interests of the Arab nation.

ADMIRAL HOLLOWAY MEETS AS-SADAT; TO VISIT ISRAEL

LD271803Y Moscow TASS in English 1630 GMT 27 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Cairo, March 27, TASS--Admiral Holloway, chief of staff of the United States Navy, who is on a 3-day visit here, had a meeting with President as-Sadat and Egypt's minister of war, Al-Jamasi.

It is reported that Holloway will also visit Israel.

ISRAEL CONTINUES TO PLUNDER ARAB OIL IN SINAI

LD272254Y Moscow TASS in English 2118 GMT 27 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Amman, March 27, TASS--Israel continues plundering natural wealth in occupied Arab lands. According to reports that came here, commercial exploitation of a large off-shore oil deposit "Alma" was started off the coast of the Sinai Peninsula. It yields daily ten thousand barrels of oil which will be carried by tankers to the port of Eilat in the Gulf of Aqaba.

SITUATION IN LEBANON REMAINS COMPLEX, TENSE

LD272035Y Moscow TASS in English 1953 GMT 27 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Beirut, March 27, TASS--TASS correspondent Anatoliy Borisov reports:

The situation in the south of Lebanon continues to be complex and tense, because the Israeli military are unwilling to withdraw troops and comply with the decision of the UN Security Council. Though the Lebanese authorities, the national patriotic forces of Lebanon and the Palestine resistance movement are doing everything to facilitate the mission of the UN forces, Israel is dragging out under different pretexts the withdrawal of its troops from south Lebanese regions. And aided by its allies--the conservative forces--obstructs in every way the deployment of U.N. forces in the populated areas and strategic regions under its control. At present new "local administrative bodies" are being set up in the Israeli occupied south Lebanese areas, conservative militia detachments are being formed and purges are carried out among the local population to find out those who sympathize with the progressive forces. Reports reaching here say Israel started deliveries of armaments and military hardware for the conservative forces in south Lebanon and is actively reinforcing their positions.

The Israeli radio today reported that the command of the armed formations of Lebanese conservative forces decided to set up a so-called "south Lebanese army" into which all men from 18 to 45 years of age residing in south Lebanon will be subject for military call up.

Every day brings reports from the south of Lebanon about unending provocations by the occupying forces, which systematically carry on artillery shelling of regions to the north and east of the Litani River. Last night Israeli artillery intensively shelled the positions of the national patriotic forces and the Palestine resistance movement in the areas of An-Nabitiyah, Arnun, Khardali, Kawkaba, Au-Jarraq and the Al-'Urqub sector. According to the Palestine Wafa agency, vigorous movement of Israeli tank units and troop concentrations were noted in the eastern sector. Israeli aircraft have increased reconnaissance flights over the Bekaa Valley and highland Lebanon. Yesterday a group of Israeli aircraft flew over the Lebanese capital.

Everything indicates that, far from planning to withdraw its troops from south Lebanon as demanded by the U.N. Security Council resolution, Israel intends to expand the conflict still wider. Israeli Defence Minister Weizman openly stated today that in the next two days Tel Aviv plans to carry out another major military operation against detachments of the Palestine resistance movement and Lebanese national patriotic forces.

Junblatt Interview

LD272228Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 27 Mar 78 LD

[Report on interview by Beirut correspondent Rassadin with Chairman of Lebanon's Progressive Socialist Party Walid Junblatt, date and place not given, in Arabic fading into Russian--recorded]

[Excerpt] [Junblatt] The crisis related to the Israeli invaders' occupation of a considerable part of southern Lebanon is continuing to sharpen. At the moment the Israeli leaders' attitude is hardening. The fact emerges that they are trying to surround the withdrawing their troops with a whole series of conditions. It is quite clear that the Israeli military, as it has done before, is trying to destroy Lebanese and Palestinian fighters in the south. The Israeli invasion of southern Lebanon and the policy of separatist solutions in the Near East is a link in one and the same imperialist plot. This plot contrasts with the clear, consistent attitude of the Soviet Union regarding solutions in the Near East.

[Rassadin] The chairman of the Progressive Socialist Party of Lebanon in conclusion expresses to the Soviet Union his deep awareness and gratitude for its growing solidarity and all-around help.

BOYCOTT OF ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL SESSION IN CAIRO REPORTED

LD272244Y Moscow TASS in English 2112 GMT 27 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Cairo, March 27, TASS--Another session of the Council of the League of Arab states opened in the Egyptian capital. Taking part in it are delegations of eleven Arab countries. The front of progressive Arab states, consisting of Algeria, the Democratic Yemen, Libya and Syria, as well as the Palestine Liberation Organization, refused to take part in the session. As is known, these states decided at the conference in Tripoli to boycott the functions held in the Egyptian capital because of the capitulatory policy of the Egyptian leadership which is detrimental to the interests of Arabs and of the just struggle of the Palestinian Arab people.

YOUNG'S CHARGE OF FRONTLINE STATES' DUPLICITY REFUTED

LD272134Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1645 GMT 27 Mar 78 LD

[From the "International Diary" program presented by Yevgeniy Kochanov]

[Text] Young, the permanent U.S. representative at the United Nations, has tried to cast aspersions on the position of Mozambique, Botswana, Zambia and Tanzania over the Rhodesian settlement. Talking to journalists in Dar es Salaam, according to a UPI agency report, he stated that the practical approach of these so-called frontline states for solving the Rhodesian problem is more flexible than the official one. Young in effect maintained that the heads of the four African states at the conference held in the Tanzanian capital have, allegedly, two positions--one official and the other backstage. This unworthy device by the American diplomat, who came to Dar es Salaam for unofficial consultations with those taking part in the conference, was immediately exposed.

A Tanzanian Government spokesman made a statement in which he stressed that the front-line countries have one position only on the Rhodesian problem. It is clearly outlined in the conference's final communique. As is known, the presidents of Tanzania, Mozambique, Zambia and Botswana support the armed struggle of the people of Zimbabwe against the racist Smith regime and have affirmed that the Patriotic Front is the sole genuine expression of the interests of the African population of the country. They have rejected the notorious internal settlement--the deal made by the racist boss Smith with the three African puppets--and criticized the policy of London and Washington who have in fact done nothing to establish African majority rule in Rhodesia.

NEW RHODESIAN COUNCIL CANNOT DEAL WITH PROBLEMS

LD272256Y Moscow in English to Africa 1830 GMT 27 Mar 78 LD

[Aleksandr Fedorov commentary]

[Text] Although the so-called Executive Council has just been set up, its members have come out with quite a number of statements. Muzorewa, Sithole and Chiuru emphasize the number of people attending the so-called meetings of support they sponsor, yet as the Washington POST observes, this show of approval does not change the state of affairs and it cannot be viewed as a sign of the true attitude of the country's population to the latest developments.

The very first days have shown that the Executive Council can't solve a single pressing issue. The situation in the economy is deteriorating rapidly. Despite the promises of a coming boom, the Shangani Mining Corporation has reduced the processes of nickel and copper dressing by a third. Rio Tinto also plans to close down two ferrochromium plants. A company controlled by Messina (Transvaal) has closed down production, and as a result more than 1,000 persons have been laid off. There are now 100 Africans out of work per white jobless.

Members of the council are trying to reassure the public. Muzorewa, for one, goes so far as to claim that difficulties always bring positive results and that everything is going to be all right eventually. Yet the leading Rhodesian bank, Standard Bank Group, holds a different view, and it is based not on emotions but on facts. The time for solving Rhodesia's economic problems is running out, the bank says in its quarterly report. Economic pressure will grow this year, if the internal settlement fails to get international recognition.

That the deal won't get recognition is obvious from statements at the recent session of the Security Council. The delegates of many countries argued that since the constitutional problem of Rhodesia has not been solved, there can be no talk about lifting the economic sanctions. True, the Salisbury rulers hope to get assistance from the Western countries, which for 13 years since the UDI have been finding loopholes to save the regime. And another fact: Africa and the entire progressive world denounced the apartheid regime, and companies violating the sanctions will have to reckon with this attitude.

It is highly doubtful that the deal between Smith and the puppets can stop the guerrilla war. Despite the amnesty that has been promised the guerrillas haven't laid down arms. Nine more fortified villages in the northeast have been liberated lately, and their populations have joined the guerrilla movement. Faced with the growing scale of armed resistance, the command of the self-defense forces has asked for more mercenaries in the West.

Since the agreement on internal settlement has failed to solve the issue of the majority rule, the corresponding United Nations resolution, including the documents of the 32nd General Assembly, remain in force. The session confirmed the right of the Zimbabwe people to self-determination, freedom and independence, and its right to fight for this with all the means at their disposal. Nothing has changed in Rhodesia since the internal settlement was signed: nothing except maybe for the attitude to the regime on the part of those who had hoped for its commonsense in assessing the situation in the interests of both the Africans and the colonists.

PRESIDENT KAUNDA CRITICIZES U.S. POLICY ON AFRICA

LD280954Y Moscow TASS in English 0952 GMT 28 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Lusaka, March 28, TASS--Zambia's President Kenneth Kaunda criticised the United States policy vis-a-vis southern Africa. At a meeting with the visiting American Congressmen Charles Diggs and Stephen Solarz, Kaunda said he was puzzled by the fact that the United States, expressing support for the struggle by the oppressed masses of southern Africa, at the same time was rendering large-scale assistance to the oppressors.

UN GROUP CALLS FOR INCREASED AID FOR SWAPO

LD241242Y Moscow TASS in English 1232 GMT 24 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Lusaka, March 24, TASS--Participants in the emergency session of the U.N. Council for Namibia, which closed here, declared full support for the armed liberation struggle of the Namibian people against the South African occupiers. They called on world public for an increase in aid to the South-West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) heading the just struggle of the Namibian patriots.

Participants in the meeting unanimously adopted a declaration demanding an immediate end to the unlawful occupation by the racialists of the South African Republic of this territory, unconditional withdrawal of all South African troops, release of political prisoners and the granting to the Namibian people the right to decide its destiny. It is only if all of these conditions are met that a just settlement of the problem of Namibia in the interests of the African majority is possible. The declaration condemns the actions of the racialists stepping up repressions against the people of Namibia. The campaign of terror is accompanied with intensive military preparations including a further increase in the contingents of the armed forces of the South African Republic in Namibia and their equipment with the latest types of weapons.

The U.N. Council expressed a resolute protest against the unlawful annexation by the South African Republic of Walvis Bay port, which is an inseparable part of Namibia's territory. This decision of the racist authorities, the declaration notes, is an act of aggression against the Namibian people.

The cruel repressions against the people of Namibia, the aggressive actions against the independent neighbour states and the intensive preparations in the South African Republic for the creation of its own nuclear weapon, the document stresses, constitute a serious threat to peace and security not only in this area but also all over the world.

ANGOLA MARKS DEFEAT OF IMPERIALIST AGGRESSION

LD272204Y Moscow TASS in English 2015 GMT 27 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Luanda, March 27, TASS--The celebrations held to mark the second anniversary of defeating the armed imperialist aggression against the People's Republic of Angola concluded in a mass manifestation of the Angolan working people in Luanda. The public of the Angolan capital, representatives of all 16 provinces of the country showed [word indistinct] against their support for the MPLA-Workers' Party and the Government of the People's Republic of Angola that is making radical social and economic transformation in the country in accordance with the Angolan people's chosen socialist party.

The achievements of the Angolan working people in economy, science and culture were reviewed on the national holiday, the Victory Day. The country honored the winners of the socialist emulation which has now spread to tens of thousands of Angolans. The biggest successes among collectives of the working people were achieved by workers and employees of the state-owned textile complex "Textan" that won the socialist emulation last year.

Marking the important anniversary in their history, the Angolan people expressed again their resolve to consolidate the country's defence potential at a time when provocations are being staged on the republic's northern and southern frontiers. The national radio stressed that the existence of a free, progressive state in the south of the African Continent serves an example to oppressed African peoples that are waging the struggle against colonialism, neocolonialism and racism. This is why the enemies of the Angolan revolution continue the attempts to frustrate the process of progressive transformations in Angola.

Special issues of the newspapers and magazines and programs of radio and television of the People's Republic of Angola devoted to the anniversary pointed to the internationalist assistance that was given to the Angolan people by countries of the socialist community, above all the Soviet Union and Cuba, in rebuffing the imperialist aggression and building new life. In a commentary devoted to the Victory Day, the national radio stressed that the development and deepening of the Angolan revolution demand ever greater rallying of the Angolan people around the MPLA-Workers' Party, increase of the output and productivity of labour and further strengthening of the ties of the People's Republic of Angola with countries of the socialist community.

CPSU'S ALIYEV DEPARTS FOR INDIA TO ATTEND CPI CONGRESS

LD280754Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0730 GMT 28 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, 28 March--A CPSU delegation led by Geydar Aliyev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Azerbaijan CP Central Committee, has left for India to attend the 11th Congress of the Communist Party of India.

KUTAKHOV ARRIVES IN DELHI, MET BY INDIAN CHIEF OF STAFF

LD281052Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1030 GMT 28 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Kutakhov, USSR deputy minister of defense and chief air marshal, arrived in Delhi today on an official visit. He was met at the airport by Moolgavkar, marshal and chief of staff of the Indian Air Force, and other representatives of the country's armed forces.

The visit includes a meeting with Indian President Reddy and Minister of Defense Ram.

DEMONSTRATIONS FOLLOW BHUTTO DEATH SENTENCE IN PAKISTAN

LD231109Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 21 Mar 78 p 4 LD

[TASS report: "Steps by the Pakistani Authorities"]

[Text] Karachi, 20 March--After the Lahore Supreme Court passed the death sentence on former Pakistani Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, supporters of the Pakistan People's Party, which he leads, attempted to hold protest demonstrations in a number of cities, despite the ban imposed by the authorities on all forms of political activity in the country. The police broke up the demonstrations and made arrests.

The authorities have officially announced that 50 people were arrested in Karachi and 16 in Rawalpindi. They immediately appeared before a military tribunal and were sentenced to a year's strict detention in prison and to corporal punishment. Student clashes with the police occurred in Lahore and Larkana.

The newspapers DAWN and MORNING NEWS reported that more arrests have occurred in recent days among the grass-roots organizations of the Pakistan People's Party. Additional contingents of police and troops have been drafted into cities in Sind Province. Banks, postal and telegraph facilities, and also important state establishments in Lahore, Islamabad and Rawalpindi are being guarded by reinforced police details. The streets of those cities are being patrolled by soldiers in trucks and armored personnel carriers.

BRIEFS

CONSULTATIONS WITH PAKISTANI DELEGATION--Consultations have been held in the Soviet Foreign Ministry with a delegation of the Pakistani Foreign Ministry headed by the secretary of the ministry, Neaz Naik. Consultations were held from 20 to 21 March. Mr Naik was received by Viktor Maltsev, first deputy foreign minister. There was an exchange of views on the forthcoming special session of the UN General Assembly on disarmament and other issues of mutual interest.

III. 28 Mar 78

USSR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
SOUTHEAST ASIA

K 1

PRC RENEGES ON PROMISE TO END SUPPORT OF BURMESE TERRORISTS

OW270014Y Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Mandarin to Southeast Asia 0930 GMT 25 Mar 78 OW

[Shelepin commentary]

[Excerpts] Recently, a foreign news agency report from Rangoon said that the anti-government organization known as the White Flags [Burmese Communist party] had intensified its activities in Burma. This organization demolished the [words indistinct] hydroelectric power station, cutting off the capital's power supply for 3 days. Because of this dangerous military situation, the Burmese Government was forced to restrict all domestic travel. This latest incident was the most serious, although not the first, sabotage activity in recent years.

The White Flags organization has existed for 20 years. During this time, the organization has constantly conducted sabotage activities and bloody battles. Fatalities resulting from these activities have reached as many as 100 per month in Burma. The state has been forced to devote nearly one-third of its budget to defense. But this organization obviously could not have continued its subversion for 20 years unless it received support from an external force.

Peking is the external force that connives and instigates with these rebels. Peking has given weapons to these terrorists, trained them in modern warfare and provided a haven for them in China when they are exposed to danger. Because these close ties exist between the White Flags and Peking, Burmese President U Ne Win raised this issue recently during his second visit to China and asked the Chinese to halt their aid to the rebels. However, the organization has continued to use Chinese weapons to conduct subversive activities.

Official sources in (?Burma) placed great hope in the visit of Teng Hsiao-ping, vice premier of the PRC State Council, to Burma early this year. They also thought that the problem of the rebel-Peking alliance would be easily resolved during his visit. Teng Hsiao-ping apparently promised to end support of the White Flags terrorist organization. KYODO's Peking correspondent predicted that Teng's visit to Burma would signify a change in China's previous support of the terrorists. But subsequent events have proved that the hope that China would change its policy toward the White Flags organization has not been fulfilled.

New Attacks Cited

LD272216Y Moscow TASS in English 2023 GMT 27 Mar 78 LD

["Sallies by pro-Peking Mercenaries"--TASS headline]

[Text] Rangoon, March 27, TASS--The BURMESE NEWS AGENCY reported new sallies by the rebels supported and directed by Peking. Large forces of these rebels launched a broad onslaught in February and March in the immediate vicinity of the border with China in the area of the towns of Kunlon and Tanyan. Owing to resolute measures by the Burmese Army, the rebels were routed. In fierce battles they lost more than 800 casualties killed.

Local circles draw attention to the fact that the rebel attack began on the day following the conclusion of an official visit to Burma by the vice premier of the PRC State Council, Teng Hsiao-ping. At the time when the Chinese leader, sparing no words, assured the Burmese side of warm feelings of fraternal friendship and goodneighbourhood, Peking's agents made the last preparations for new adventures along the Burmese-Chinese borders. The press notes that the rebels could not have undertaken such broad operations without Peking's direct assistance.

'NEIGHBORLINESS' MARKS THAI FOREIGN POLICY IN POSTWAR ASIA

LD221135Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 19 Mar 78 p 4 LD

[Correspondent I. Shchedrov Thailand dispatch: "Bangkok's Concerns"]

[Excerpt] For many years Thailand served as a base and bridgehead for the U.S. military clique's aggression against Indochina. The United States deliberately incited military expansion, forced Thailand to bear disproportionate military expenditures and tried to impose the alien interests of transatlantic policy on the Thai people. The situation in the Indochina Peninsula changed in 1975, after the defeat of the American aggressors. These changes did not exclude Thailand.

Last October, the politicians who came to power here announced their rejection of confrontation with neighboring states and advocated the development of neighborliness on the basis of the principles of peaceful coexistence. Innovation in Thailand's political policy was also reflected in the activities of the capital. On the first day of the new year the curfew imposed by the former authorities was lifted. Public life became animated and trade union activity was again permitted. The new trends also gave confidence to the "city fathers," who began to talk seriously of long-term planning for Bangkok's development and the gradual resolution of the acute issues facing Bangkok--since as happens everywhere, social problems here are intertwined with political problems. Many people in Bangkok now say that the emerging normalization with neighboring states, the unremitting relaxation of tension and the consolidation of peace make it possible to begin resolving the city's critical problems. The success of their resolution, of course, depends on many factors. But the people of Bangkok believe great importance will be attached precisely to the process of the country's transition from confrontation to cooperation with its neighbors.

JSP SUBJECTED TO INCREASING PRESSURE FROM PRC AT TALKS

OW280243Y Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1200 GMT 25 Mar 78 OW

[Tsvetov commentary]

[Text] A Japan Socialist Party [JSP] delegation has held talks with Peking leaders. According to Japanese newspaper reports, Ichio Asukata, JSP chairman and head of the delegation, stated at the delegation's first meeting with PRC officials that the JSP's major goals are to defend the "peace" Constitution of Japan, achieve Japan's neutrality, oppose the nation's militarization and work for abolition of the Japan-U.S. security treaty.

However, Liao Cheng-chih, who represented the PRC, refused to discuss these problems and led the talks in a different direction. According to an ASAHI SHIMBUN report, Liao Cheng-chih stressed the significance of a 1975 joint statement signed by Narita [then JSP chairman] and himself. As is known, in that joint statement the two sides declared a united struggle against the "two superpowers," one of which is said to be the Soviet Union.

In his speech Liao Cheng-chih denounced many people for continuing to oppose the Narita-Liao statement. Japanese newspapers noted this development in the talks. ASAHI SHIMBUN wrote that a delicate difference has been observed between the two positions.

The JSP delegation took a cautious stand regarding Liao Cheng-chih's approach. Judging from all factors, it is believed that this attitude on the part of the delegation was prompted by the complex situation within the JSP over this issue. Former JSP Secretary General Ishibashi admitted in his report on party activities at the 39th JSP Congress that the 1975 joint statement contains an ambiguous point.

Even now, Peking's attempt to involve Japan in what it calls antihegemonist activities--that is to make Japan pursue an anti-Soviet policy--is causing widespread apprehension among the Japanese people. This was clearly seen in an opinion poll conducted by YOMIURI SHIMBUN. More than 45 percent of those polled said that Japan should not hastily conclude a treaty containing an antihegemony clause.

According to reports from Peking, the JSP delegation nevertheless conceded under PRC pressure and reaffirmed the 1975 joint statement. According to YOMIURI SHIMBUN, Asukata said that the joint statement declaring opposition to the hegemonism of the two superpowers has become a guideline showing the path for the two nations to follow, and that it can withstand the ordeals of history.

Even if Asukata made that kind of statement, it is still impossible to decide whether he meant it to be a JSP policy statement or merely a matter of form. Asukata must be aware of the negative consequences the JSP faced because of the 1975 statement which Peking forced on the Narita delegation. The Asukata statement as reported by YOMIURI SHIMBUN will certainly become a subject of controversy within the JSP as well as among the Japanese people.

In this connection, we must refer to the secret document No 19 which the Peking leadership recently sent to local leaders. The document states: On one hand it is necessary to be bold enough and welcome all government and local representatives from Japan who advocate friendship with China. On the other, we should take advantage of cultural, economic and personnel exchanges to disseminate Mao Tse-tung's Thought in Japan. By doing so we will help the Chinese people to grasp Asia's destiny.

In other words, Peking is again attempting to divert the JSP from a principled class-oriented course and turn it into a tool for achieving its hegemonist ambitions in Japan. It is inconceivable, however, that the JSP will ever become an agitator for Peking's anti-Soviet policy in Japan.

JAPANESE POLITICIANS, PRESS SEE DANGER IN PRC TREATY

OW271345Y Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1200 GMT 26 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Japanese Prime Minister Fukuda has decided to resume the negotiations on a so-called Japan-China peace and friendship treaty which have been suspended since late 1975. Foreign Minister Sonoda is scheduled to visit Peking in mid-April for talks on the subject with Chinese leaders. Prime Minister Fukuda's decision clearly indicates that certain circles in Japan have begun to surrender to the Chinese Government, which is trying to include an anti-Soviet clause in the proposed treaty and thus draw Japan into its anti-Soviet strategy.

This rash (?behavior) is opposed and criticized by sensible politicians in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP]. An LDP group led by dietman Nadao, a well-known politician, has called on Prime Minister Fukuda to be very careful in negotiating the treaty with China. Nadao and his group stress that a hastily concluded Japan-China treaty will cause future calamities and, therefore, the government must be very prudent about this issue.

Former Agriculture-Forestry Minister Akagi, a famous politician and social activist, opposes the quick signing of a treaty with China. Akagi says that the government should consider the possible effects of such an act on Japan's relations with the Soviet Union.

MAINICHI SHIMBUN says China is persistently trying to include a clause on joint actions against hegemony in the treaty. It says these actions are tantamount to opposing the Soviet Union since the present Chinese leadership regards the Soviet Union as its principal enemy. If Japan wants to maintain friendly relations with all countries in the world, it should be very careful in dealing with Japan-China treaty issue.

SANKAI SHIMBUN says China is pressing for unilateral concessions by Japan while stubbornly adhering to its own policy and trying to conclude the treaty according to its own conditions. Japan, it says, should not be at the mercy of China and should not consent to an alliance based on Peking's anti-Soviet strategy.

The magazine SHUKAN DIAMOND says that persons who call for the signing of the treaty on the condition that both sides interpret the hegemony clause independently are unrealistic. The magazine says China is trying to include this hegemony clause in the treaty and will impose its own interpretation of this clause on Japan and demand Japan's participation in joint actions.

The treaty with China, SHUKAN DIAMOND says, is like a weak bridge spanning a valley. While crossing this unstable bridge, one may fall to the bottom of the valley. Signing this treaty will not benefit Japan. Instead, the weekly magazine warns, it may bring calamities to Japan.

JAPAN'S LDP PROPOSES DEVELOPMENTS ON DISPUTED ISLANDS

LD271934Y Moscow TASS in English 1904 GMT 27 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Tokyo, March 27, TASS- The Executive Council of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party of Japan adopted a resolution demanding that the government should establish an "effective control" over the Senkaku Islands. For this purpose, the Executive Council suggests that a harbour, a helicopter station and a meteorological station should be built there.

The KYODO PRESS AGENCY points out that the demand of the Executive Council is promoted by the fact that China made numerous claims to these islands situated between Okinawa and Taiwan.

A member of the Executive Council of the Liberal Democratic Party said that the question of the rights to Senkaku should be elucidated before Japan and China conclude a treaty of peace and friendship. The negotiations about the conclusion of this treaty will be resumed in mid-April.

LARGER JAPANESE PROTESTS AGAINST U.S. MILITARY URGED

LD280802Y Moscow TASS in English 0730 GMT 28 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Tokyo, March 28, TASS--Thirteen democratic, trade union and public organizations in Kanagawa Prefecture have urged the public to step up their campaign against the further fortification of the Pentagon's bases on Japanese soil. The appeal addressed to the people of Kanagawa, where numerous military installations are located, including the American air base Atsugi and the naval base Yokosuka, points to the need for broader united actions by all the peace forces for the abrogation of the Japanese-American security treaty and removal of all American military bases in Japanese territory.

At present the Pentagon has in Japan over 140 bases and other military installations where 48,000 American servicemen are stationed.

KOSYGIN VISITS KRASNOYARSK AREA INDUSTRIAL SITES

LD271800Y Moscow TASS in English 1748 GMT 27 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 27, TASS--Politbureau member of the CPSU CC, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR Aleksey Kosygin, was in the Krasnoyarsk territory (Siberia) from March 25 to 27. He visited a number of enterprises, went to the construction site of the Sayano-Shushenskaya hydropower station, was acquainted with the course of the formation of the Sayany territorial-production complex. At conferences with party functionaries and top managers questions pertaining to the intensive development of the natural resources and the comprehensive economic development of east Siberia and of raising the agricultural production of that region were examined.

Returns to Moscow

LD280920Y Moscow TASS in English 0919 GMT 28 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 28, TASS--Aleksey Kosygin, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, today arrived here from a visit to Orenburg, the Tyumen region and the Krasnoyarsk territory.

DISCUSSION BEGINS OF REPUBLIC DRAFT CONSTITUTIONS

LD281150Y Moscow TASS in English 1117 GMT 28 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 28, TASS--The Soviet people have started discussion of the draft constitutions of all the 15 constituent republics of the USSR. These documents, which are designed to further improve the legislation of the republics, were prepared on the basis of the new Constitution of the USSR which was adopted on October 7, last year.

"National statehood for the peoples of the Soviet Union is one of the major achievements of the October Revolution of 1917," Vladimir Kudryavtsev, director of the Institute of the State and Law, the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, said to a TASS correspondent. In 1924, there were four union republics and in 1936 there were 11 of them. At present the USSR comprises, on the basis of self-determination, 15 union republics.

Unlike bourgeois federations, the Soviet federation ensures national independence and equality for all the peoples and nationalities of which there are over a hundred in the Soviet Union. The USSR includes 20 autonomous republics, eight autonomous regions and 10 autonomous districts.

"Bourgeois ideologists are trying to assert that the Soviet federation leaves no place for independence for the constituent republics. One of their arguments is, the scientist said, that not a single union republic has ever raised the question of the right to withdraw freely from the USSR."

"There are no forces in the Soviet Union interested in the withdrawal of a republic from the union because all these republics, existing within one state, have the same ultimate goal, that of building communism", he stressed.

But the right of withdrawal is a guarantee of a voluntary stay of every union republic within the USSR as a sovereign state.

The right is confirmed in the draft constitutions of all the Soviet republics. They may establish relations with foreign states and join international organisations. "This shows that in the Soviet united state there is no contradiction between the sovereignty of the USSR and the sovereignty of the republics, as is the case with bourgeois federations", he said.

MEASURES INTRODUCED TO REGULATE BALTIC SEA FISHING

LD280932Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0752 GMT 28 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, 28 March--The USSR Council of Ministers has introduced temporary measures for the preservation of live resources and the regulation of fishing in the parts of the Baltic Sea adjacent to the USSR coastline. They are being introduced as of 1 April.

The external limits of the areas which are subject to the temporary measures will be determined on the basis of agreements with the interested states.

In connection with the establishment of the measures, the USSR Government notes that the Soviet Union will continue to advocate the implementation of cooperation among all the Baltic states in the preservation and rational utilization of the live resources of the Baltic Sea.

BRIEFS

FAR EAST SEA RESOURCES--The annual session on results of research in 1977 has ended at the Pacific Ocean Scientific Research Institute of Fisheries and Oceanography (TINRO). The session this year was devoted to the study and rational use of biological resources in the USSR's 200-mile zone in the Far East. Scientists from the entire Far East basin took part in the session. They discussed coastal area resources over a period of 30 days. Aleksandr Sokolovskiy, chief of the TINRO marine resources laboratory, said that the creation of 200-mile economic zones is causing certain problems for high-sea fishing and is drawing increasing attention to the coastal zone. He said it would take several years before recommendations could be made on the utilization of resources in the coastal zone. The resources laboratory, established 5 years ago, is mainly engaged in studying fishing resources in the Sea of Japan. Research has been carried out on stocks of walleyed pollock, flounder, salmon and herring and presently research is being done on pelagic fishing for sardines, mackerel, anchovies and Pacific saury. [Vladivostok Domestic Service in Russian 0215 GMT 23 Mar 78 OW]

SARDINE FISHING AREA--Vessels of the Kamchatka trawler fleet base have been fishing for west Pacific sardines along the 36th parallel earlier than in any year in the past. Three fishing vessels were recently joined by the senior-trawler Stashkovo in the area. Supervisors of the trawler fleet and specialists of the Kamchatrybprom have also arrived in the area to insure efficient fleet operations. [Vladivostok Maritime Service in Russian to the Pacific Far East 0700 GMT 21 Mar 78 OW]

MOSCOW RADIO REPORTS AGRICULTURAL PROGRESS FOR 25-27 MAR

LD280613 [Editorial Report ID] Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 0500 GMT on 25 March reports that the 10 southern rayons of Rostovskaya Oblast have joined in mass sowing. An area of 300,000 hectares has been sown to date. Over the last few days alone more than 200,000 hectares have been sown with grain and pulse crops in the Kuban. The radio reports at 1600 GMT that work is underway in the Kuban on fields sown with late crops. Many thousands of hectares have been sown with sugar beets, and much work has been carried out in the sowing of vegetables and early potatoes. In the next few days the sowing of corn will commence. The first few farms completed sowing today in southern Kazakhstan and specialists say that conditions here are favorable for the cultivation of summer crops. A lot of moisture has accumulated in the soil.

The radio reports at 0500 GMT on 26 March that corn sowing is underway in Uzbekistan. Some 25,000 hectares have already been sown. Corn will account for half of the grain to be produced in the republic. In the Chuvashskaya ASSR all the soil-tilling machines and seed drills have been overhauled and all the seeds have been brought to a high condition for sowing.

The radio says that reports are coming in that farms in Alma-Atinskaya, Chimgentskaya and Dzhambul'skaya oblasts have completed the sowing of early grain crops. In the republic of Kazakhstan as a whole more than 100,000 hectares are already sown in grain. Specialists estimate that conditions look good for the sowing in south Kazakhstan. The farmers will therefore expand the sowed area. Farms in Alma-Ata, for instance, have increased the grain area by almost 1,000 hectares.

The radio reports at 1600 GMT that mass checking of readiness for spring fieldwork has begun in Saratovskaya Oblast. The correspondent says: Some 2,000 integrated detachments of farmers have been formed. Their task is to organize work in order to utilize to the full all the machinery and to insure high labor productivity and quality of work. More than 30,000 tractors are available for the spring fieldwork. Just about all of them have been made ready. According to the experts, there is ample moisture in the soil for the normal development of crops. The spring crops are to occupy an area of 5 million hectares. The spring sowing plan provides for an expansion in the area sown to new and higher yielding strains of spring wheat. More local fertilizers than last year have been added to the soil. The area of irrigated land sown to crops is being increased to 330,000 hectares. Three-quarters of this area will be taken up by grasses, fodder crops, vegetables and potatoes. The farmers aim to harvest 7.5 million tons of grain and to sell the state no less than 3.5 million tons. The snow is disappearing from the fields now and the winter crops--300,000 hectares of them--are in good condition.

At 0300 GMT on 27 March the radio reports that the sowing of corn continues in Uzbekistan; 25,000 hectares have already been sown. Corn will represent half of the total grain produced in the republic.

At 1100 GMT the radio reports that an expanded session of the collegium of the RSFSR Agriculture Ministry is discussing agricultural yields. Minister Florentyev has told the session that the farmers of the republic have pledged at least 130 million tons of grain this year. Winter crops have been sown on more than 20 million hectares, and on most of the area are in good or satisfactory condition. The whole spring crop area has been plowed. Machinery and tractors are in a good state of readiness. In the south of the republic, sowing is being carried out at a good speed. This year there is a "realistic possibility" of sowing the whole area with first-class and second-class seed. It was noted at the session that several oblasts have reserves for increasing grain output by increasing the area of sowing and improving the structure of the grain area. There is much scope for this in the Non-Chernozem Zone especially.

GRIGORENKO CLAIMS DISSATISFACTION WITHIN SOVIET MILITARY

DW281011V Bonn DIE WELT in German. 28 Mar 78 p 7 DW

[Report by New York correspondent Alfred von Krusenstiern on interview with former Soviet Gen Petr Grigorenko in New York]

[Text] Former Soviet Gen Petr Grigorenko, who was expatriated because of his protests against arbitrary measures by the Soviet regime, speaking in a New York interview, has commented for the first time on political dissatisfaction within the Soviet Armed Forces.

"I know of many Soviet officers who participated in the invasion of Czechoslovakia and who were most unhappy about it," the former general said. For obvious reasons he cannot give any names, but he has evidence that there are high-ranking Soviet officers who share his disgust with the Soviet Government because of its violations of the law and the constitution.

Grigorenko doubts, however, that the military will play a political role within the foreseeable future, such as during a change of government. He gives three reasons:

1. The military is being "pampered" by the political leadership and enjoys various privileges.
2. The political leadership successfully tries to isolate the military from the civilian population. Officers and noncom's often live in special "soldier settlements" separated from the population and with hardly any contact with civilians.
3. The military is carefully observed and spied on by the Soviet secret service (KGB). This control is taking place on two levels. Political leadership officers must report every week in writing on the other officers. In addition the armed forces have been infiltrated with KGB agents; political leadership officers usually do not know their identity. They spy on the "purely" military and on the political leadership officers.

The former general also commented on the future of the human rights movement in the Soviet Union. The impression prevailing in the West that this is just a small group of individuals is no longer correct. It is now a "mass movement" that is spreading over the entire country. Dissidents in the capital and in the provinces maintain close contacts. "If something happens in Moscow, the members of the movement in the provinces will know about it within a couple of hours." An important role is played in this connection by the information supplied by foreign radio stations.

Prominent Moscow dissidents, such as Prof Andrey Sakharov, are visited daily by their compatriots from distant areas of the Soviet Union who have come to obtain advice.

Grigorenko further said that the human rights movement has now become so powerful that the Soviet Government can no longer ignore it or keep it under control with chicanery.

The 70-year-old Grigorenko has received high Soviet decorations. He was wounded twice-- in 1939 in battles against the Japanese in Mongolia, and in World War II in the fight against the Germans. Following his promotion to the rank of general, he became in 1959 the chief of the cybernetics department of the Frunze Military Academy. He fell in disgrace in 1961 when he began to criticize the government in public and when, among other things, he acted for the Crimea tatars who had been expelled from their homeland by Stalin. Eventually he was put in a psychiatric clinic, expelled from the party and demoted to the rank of ordinary soldier. Last November he received a Soviet exit permit for a 6-month period, permitting him to undergo an operation in New York. Shortly before his planned return to the Soviet Union his government stripped him of Soviet citizenship with the argument that he has harmed the reputation of the Soviet Union.

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